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**Fifty-seventh session**
Agenda items 52 and 160
**Strengthening of the United Nations system**

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

## Letter dated 4 April 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of Peru and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to address to Your Excellency and forward herewith attached the Moscow Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group Troika and the Russian Federation, dated 1 April 2003 (see annex), and kindly request, on behalf of the Rio Group and of the Government of the Russian Federation, that it be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 52 and 160.

(*Signed*) Oswaldo **de Rivero**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations
Coordinator of the Rio Group

(*Signed*) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

03-31461 (E) 110403 140403

## Annex to the letter dated 4 April 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of Peru and of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian and Spanish]

## Moscow Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and of the Rio Group Troika

On 1 April 2003 a meeting was held in Moscow between Mr. I. S. Ivanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group Troika, namely Mr. Allan Wagner, of the Republic of Peru, Mr. Roberto Tovar, of the Republic of Costa Rica and Mr. Celso Amorim, of the Republic of Brazil.

I

After analysing the development since 1997 of the high-level political dialogue between the Russian Federation and the Rio Group, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs reaffirmed that its constructive character, and mutual trust, allow for a frank and productive exchange of views on key problems of the international agenda, thereby contributing to an improvement of their cooperation in the international arena.

The Parties agreed to intensify political contacts, and to consider the possibility of holding a summit meeting at a future date.

II

After discussing the basic problems facing the international community, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the desire of the Russian Federation and of the Rio Group to reinforce their cooperation in the international arena with a view to the strengthening of international peace and security, respect for international law, poverty reduction, the promotion of democracy and human rights, as well as economic development and protection of the environment.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs stressed the importance of intensifying cooperation in order to carry out joint action which would help make the globalization process more orderly, balanced and secure, and direct it towards the search for mutually advantageous decisions.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations and the Security Council in international relations as the main universal instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of economic and social development. They also stressed the need for strict observance of the Charter of the United Nations and of the universally recognized principles and norms of international law. The Parties called for renewed efforts by the international community to strengthen and consolidate the collective security system of the United Nations.

Analysing the situation in Iraq, the Ministers stressed the common commitment of their countries to the principles of multilateral diplomacy and the strengthening of the legal foundations of international life, including the principles

of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. They expressed their desire for an early end to the hostilities, with minimal loss of life, and their support for political and diplomatic efforts to restore peace, and, in particular, for the adoption of urgent measures under the auspices of the United Nations to avoid a humanitarian disaster in Iraq.

The Parties emphasized the importance of the disarmament process and of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and noted the need to abide by and strengthen the agreements reached in this sphere and to promote their universal acceptance.

**III**

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs particularly stressed the importance of economic and social development and, in this respect, underscored the need to promote a strengthened and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. They also reaffirmed their interest in the early conclusion of the Doha round negotiations and their concern that the outcome should include special and differentiated treatment for the benefit of developing countries, granting preferential access to products from those countries to the markets of the developed countries.

The Parties noted the importance of establishing an effective mechanism for monitoring the global financial and monetary structure and for drawing up a system of measures for rapid response to crises and a long-term strategy for the prevention of global upheavals. They stressed the need for combined efforts by the international community to implement the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, August/September 2002) and the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, March 2002).

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group Troika reported on the Rio Group's initiative to establish innovative financial mechanisms to meet social needs, strengthen democratic governance and confront the growth of extreme poverty. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation expressed his interest and willingness to participate in broad dialogue with all interested parties on the modalities for carrying out that initiative.

**IV**

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs agreed that a central objective of the international community should be to minimize the threat of conflicts at all levels. The Ministers expressed concern about the intensification of threats to national, regional and international security, in particular international terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, and also the persistence and worsening of structural challenges such as poverty and extreme poverty, which endanger stability and democratic governance.

Accordingly, attention was drawn to the need to continue an active dialogue and exchange of information on the conceptual issues of regional and international security, which would contribute to taking greater account of the specific concerns of countries and subregions, and also to coordination of the Parties' approaches within the framework of multilateral cooperation in dealing with new challenges and threats. In this context, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group Troika

reported to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on preparations for the Special Conference on Security (Mexico, 6 to 8 May 2003).

The Parties advocated that the United Nations should be further adapted to respond to the challenges and threats of the twenty-first century and that the overall efficiency and complementarity of the United Nations system should be enhanced in combating these challenges and threats.

V

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs exchanged information about the efforts being made by their countries in combating terrorism and agreed on the need to intensify cooperation to prevent and combat this scourge, which is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, to human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to the democratic foundations of society, and also has grave consequences for the economic and social development of States. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs are convinced that no arguments can serve to justify those who commit, finance or support terrorist acts.

In this context, they agreed that cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Rio Group will be directed towards achieving common objectives in this area, including the development and strengthening of the legal and treaty framework for combating international terrorism and the financing of terrorism, and the intensification of cooperation against terrorism in the framework of multilateral mechanisms at various levels.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs expressed support for maintaining a permanent dialogue on cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Rio Group for the prevention and suppression of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

VI

In addition to regular annual contacts during the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, which they agreed to continue, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs recognized the value of holding meetings between the Russian Federation and the Rio Group Troika, alternately in the Russian Federation and in the country heading the pro tempore secretariat of the Rio Group.

In this context, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, in his capacity as First Secretary pro tempore of the Rio Group, extended a cordial invitation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to meet the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group Troika in Brazil in 2004. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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**General Assembly**
**Fifty-seventh session**
Agenda items 24, 31, 35, 36 and 77

**Culture of peace**

**Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion**

**Question of Palestine**

**The situation in the Middle East**

**Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories**

**Security Council**
**Fifty-eighth year**

## Letter dated 7 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, at the Forum on Islamic-Christian Dialogue held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 7 April 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 24, 31, 35, 36 and 77, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-31618 (E) 100403 100403

## Annex to the letter dated 7 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Grace, the Most Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to Doha. I wish you success in achieving the objectives of your seminar, which is being held, without a doubt, under extremely difficult circumstances, namely the war now taking place in our region. We have done everything in our power to avert that war and limit its repercussions. The current grievous situation imparts to your seminar profound dimensions and great significance, inasmuch as it is aimed at peace and the revitalization of the lofty values and principles of Islam and Christianity. Indeed, both are founded on the belief in the oneness of the Creator; both preach brotherliness, equality, tolerance and moderation and the rejection of violence; and both call for respect for human rights, the preservation of the dignity of the human being and the protection of his life and property.

It is those supreme values that have been the fundamental common denominators between the two religions and cultures over the centuries.

Perhaps it is useful to recall that the Holy Qur'an enjoins us not to argue with the People of the Book except in the kindliest manner and to summon others to the right path with wisdom and gentle exhortation.

We therefore pray God to grant you success in your endeavours so that the dialogue among civilizations may win out over the challenges and obstacles. We feel certain that your exalted rank and your open-mindedness will enable you to deal, during this seminar, with everything that might stand in the way of enlightened cooperation between the people of the two faiths.

Perhaps the most serious of those obstacles are related to two major problems:

1. Diverting the revealed religions from the essence of their message and impressing their doctrines into the service of political aims;

2. Judging an entire nation on the basis of the behaviour of a handful of extremists or ignorant people and taking some of their actions as a basis for labelling the whole nation, distorting its civilization, threatening its interests and doing injustice to its established principles.

In our opinion, these are the root causes of the distorted and erroneous stereotypes of Islam and Christianity we see taking root in various places. They are propagated by the media and racist writers, widening the gap between the followers of the two religions and replacing harmony with discord and dialogue with conflict.

Amid the flood of historical changes now taking place, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Arab region was honoured by the Almighty God with the revelations of Moses and Jesus as well as the dawn of the religion of the Prophet

Muhammad. Arabs, be they Muslims, Christians or Jews, have lived in peace, security and brotherhood in faith, vying with one another in goodness and generosity. Yet for the last half-century the land of the prophets and religions has been suffering from a lack of security, peace and stability owing to continued Arab-Israeli struggle without any just solution, due to the absence of any international legitimacy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have high expectations from your seminar. We hope that your discussions and studies will take up the roots of these obstacles in depth and that you will arrive at practical mechanisms for furthering dialogue. I take this opportunity to propose to you the creation of a permanent body for dialogue between Islam and Christianity having its headquarters in Qatar, which believes in the value of such dialogue among civilizations and in the principles of love, tolerance and mutual consultation among societies and nations. Qatar would be honoured to contribute its share to efforts aimed at deeper understanding, rapprochement and greater cooperation between Islamic and non-Islamic countries.

In conclusion, I wish you success and a pleasant stay in Doha.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be with you.